

RECREATION MASTER PLAN



TOWN OF WINDHAM NEW HAMPSHIRE

Windham Recreation 2007 Master Plan Contributors: Recreation Coordinator Cheryl Haas, Bill Brennan, Michael Hatem, John LaRochelle, Chris O'Neil, Ralph Valentine.

ADOPTED BY PLANNING BOARD MAY 2, 2012

Windham Recreation Chapter Update 2011

The Master Plan is meant to serve as a guidance document for town-level planning, articulating current conditions, predicting future needs, and planning for future programs and funding. The Recreation Coordinator, Recreation Committee, and town boards can use this document to plan wisely for the recreational needs of all of the citizens of the Town of Windham. This plan is a Chapter of the Town of Windham's 2005 Master Plan.

Introduction

Having a variety of recreational opportunities available to all residents helps ensure the high quality of life and well-being that Windham has come to treasure. Recreational facilities provide residents of all ages with opportunities to exercise, socialize, connect with nature, learn about their community, and so much more. There are 2 main types of recreational opportunities available to Windham residents: passive natural resources based opportunities and active organized opportunities. Passive natural opportunities make use of local natural features and provide opportunities for fishing, camping, swimming, boating, hiking, mountain biking, and bird watching. Sometimes these have components of built infrastructure, such as a parking lot at a trail head, a dock at the beach, or a platform for camping. However, these opportunities are mostly unorganized in nature and take advantage of the natural resources within the community. Active opportunities includes watching or playing a sport, walking or jogging on a designed and maintained trail, or taking a yoga class at a Town Facility, such as Town Hall or Senior Center. Having a mix of recreational opportunities, that require various levels of involvement to participate, for a wide variety of age groups is what Windham is striving for.

This Recreation Section of the Master Plan contains citizen input from a variety of sources. These sources include the 2005 Master Plan community visioning workshop, a community survey, an assessment of the existing facilities and conditions, and an assessment of the recreational needs of the community. Windham's reputation as a family-friendly community illustrates the residents' commitment to recreation, both organized team events, as well as passive family outings. Recreation and recreational facilities are community priorities to be planned, developed, and maintained like any other town capital assets. The underlying goal of this plan is to improve recreational opportunities to match the needs of the present residents and to keep up with the pace of the Town's population growth and diversity of activities. This includes providing a mix of activity-oriented and resource-oriented recreational facilities for residents of all age groups and sectors of town.

Existing Conditions

From 1980 to July 2005, the Recreation Committee administered recreational activities in Windham. Annually, the ten volunteers, appointed by the Board of Selectmen, were charged with the oversight of Town recreational facilities and the development and management of programs for the Town. In July 2005, Windham hired their first Recreation Coordinator. The position started out as part-time until it became a full-time position in May 2007. With the addition of the Recreation Coordinator, many programs have been added which has resulted in more opportunities for residents. In addition to creating and implementing programs, the Recreation Department also provides quality recreational facilities to the residents, as well as support for civic and sports non-profit organizations.

The Recreation Department organizes annual events such as The Easter Egg Hunt, Town Day, Harvest Festival, Christmas Tree Lighting, Daddy Daughter Dance, and Senior Christmas Party. Other ongoing programs include, but are not limited to, senior exercise classes, adult exercise classes, tot sports, archery, writing courses, swimming lessons, tennis lessons, arts and crafts, and various other programs and trips.

Facility Inventory

The following is an inventory of existing recreational facilities and lands in Windham. Following the descriptive section below are tables showing program enrollment and facility conditions with suggested improvements. This information can be used as a guide in decision-making about program planning, budgeting for facility maintenance and improvements, as well as to help predict needed funding for the recreation budget, and future facility needs.

Golden Brook School, 112 Lowell Road.

Golden Brook School is a 3-acre property located in the Southwest section of Windham. The school is an elementary school for kindergarten, transition and grades 1 and 2. The school athletic fields are used by school teams, the Windham Baseball Softball League (up until the end of 2011), and the Windham Soccer Association. There is 1 soccer field (Upper Golden Brook), 1 softball field (Lower Golden Brook up until end of 2011), and 1 playground. The softball field that was used for baseball is no longer available for use as for 2012 due to the kindergarten project.

School personnel maintain this facility. This facility is considered to be in average condition. The softball field which is no longer available, was skinned in 2006, had covered dugouts and a batting cage. *(A skinned field, which is regulation for softball, is a softball diamond with clay in the infield as opposed to grass. There is no raised pitcher's mound on a skinned field as well).* The cafeteria is used for the youth basketball league in the winter months.

Center School, 2 Lowell Road

Center School is a 5-acre property located in the center of Windham that educates grades 3, 4, and 5. The school athletic fields are used by school teams as well as Windham Baseball and Softball League and Windham Soccer Association. There is 1 baseball/soccer field, 1 softball field, a basketball court, a gymnasium, and a playground suitable for school aged children. The Youth and Men's Basketball Leagues use the indoor gymnasium for basketball in the winter months.

School personnel maintain this facility. The softball field was skinned in 2007. The facility is in average condition. There is one chemical toilet on site from spring through fall.

Middle School, 112 Lowell Road

The Middle School property is located in the southwest section of Windham for grades 6 through 8. The school athletic fields are used by the school teams as well as Windham Baseball and Softball League and the Windham Soccer Association. The school has 1 baseball/soccer field, a gymnasium, and a nature trail. The Youth Basketball League uses the gymnasium in the winter months.

School personnel maintain this facility. Parking is adequate. The shortfall of this facility is the overlapping of the baseball and soccer fields. A new septic system was put in 2006 and was relocated from the baseball/soccer field to an area behind the school. The facility is in average condition.

Windham High School, 64 London Bridge Road

The High School opened its doors in August 2009. The fields that they currently have are:

1. One Soccer Field used for: Fall Boys JV and Varsity Soccer, Girls JV and Varsity Soccer, Spring Girls JV and Varsity Lacrosse, Boys JV and Varsity Lacrosse.
2. One Football Field used for: Fall JV and Varsity Football, Spring Boys JV and Varsity Lacrosse when Girls have a game on the other field.
3. One Softball Field used for: Fall Boys and Girls Soccer practices when games are on game field Spring JV and Varsity Softball practices and games
4. One Baseball Field used for: Fall JV and Varsity Field Hockey practices and games Spring JV and Varsity Baseball practices and games
5. One multipurpose Physical Education Practice Turf Field 30X60 used for:

Multiple teams both fall and winter for use while other fields are being used for games, during poor weather, or to prepare for an opponent that plays on turf

Note: Please see Appendix at the end of this plan for 2011 information regarding the High School Fields.

Wonderland Playground, Estey Rd.



This year round playground, built by a group of dedicated volunteers in 1991, is located adjacent to Rogers Fields. It is situated on Cemetery Land that could be reclaimed in the future for cemetery purposes. The playground is a wooden play structure with swings designed for various ages and abilities. This playground is used by those in the neighborhood who can walk to it, the users of the ball fields, and those who may use it as an alternative to the Griffin Park playground, especially in the

summer months, as it is well-shaded. Money was received in the 2007 budget for the “Rehabilitation” of the Playground which was used for power washing, sanding, and sealing. The remainder of the project, (painting, planting, and new plaques) was completed in spring of 2009 with the assistance of Girl Scout Troop 1006 working on their Gold Award. The parking is sufficient. There is a chemical toilet on site from spring through fall.

Rogers Field, Cobbett’s Pond and Ministerial Roads

Rogers Field is located on the corner of Cobbetts Pond Road and Ministerial Road. There are three fields with irrigation, one of which is skinned. In the spring and fall, these fields are used by the Windham Baseball and Softball League for baseball. Trees were removed from the parking lot in 2006 and 2011; and additional trees from around the fields in 2010. Parking at this field is not sufficient, and the street tends to get used. Users are encouraged to park in the Wonderland parking lot for overflow parking. There are two chemical toilets on this site from spring through fall. This land is also Cemetery Land, which means in the future it could be reclaimed for cemetery purposes.

Nashua Road Complex, Nashua Road

This area is referred to as Nashua Road, with the official name being Herbert Field. There is a t-ball field, one lacrosse/soccer field with irrigation, two tennis courts, a basketball court, and chemical toilets (spring through fall.) The t-ball field is used by the Windham Baseball and Softball League in the spring. The lacrosse/soccer field was built with the use of federal funds, through a grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. In the spring this field is used by Windham Lacrosse, and then in the fall for soccer by the Windham Soccer Association. This field has drainage problems on the east side near the slope. These fields are in above average condition.

The tennis courts are in adequate condition. Each year, the cracks are examined and re-sealed as funding allows. The basketball court is in good condition. In 2010, a new backboard was installed. In 2006, the brush was cut back away from the fence and this has been part of the yearly maintenance of the facility since. The catch man near the trail that runs alongside the facility was cleaned out in 2006. The parking is insufficient at this facility. The long-term CIP effort is to look at the plateau above the soccer field to determine how many fields can be built with parking.

Cobbetts Pond Beach, Cobbetts Pond Road

The Town Beach is located on Cobbetts Pond Road. The beach is a popular place for residents to visit at no charge. During the summer months, there are lifeguards on duty and swim lessons are offered. There is a beach house for lifeguards, swim raft, dock, and swim lines (from June-August.) There is a boat launch, and keys to launch boats are available for anglers from the Town Clerk’s Office. There are rules that accompany a fishing key such as boat size and horsepower of the motor. The Town worked with the State DES on replacing beach sand that was washed away in the May 2006 floods. There are two chemical toilets on site during the summer months. There is no running water.

In the summer of 2007, the beach sand was sifted and the windows of the beach house were replaced with rolling windows. The roof was replaced in the fall of 2007. In 2010, a new sign was donated and installed on the front of the guard house.

Searles Field, Range Road

This field is located behind the Searles School/Chapel, which is owned and operated by the Town as a function hall. The field is used as a lacrosse field in the spring and a soccer field in the fall. The fence line was cleaned up in 2006 and has been part of yearly maintenance since. The field is in above average condition and parking is sufficient. There is no irrigation at this field. There is a chemical toilet on site. The challenge of this field is that the scheduling needs to be balanced with the functions at the Searles Building.

Tokanel Field, Meadow Lane

This facility, situated in a neighborhood, was initially built with federal funds from Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF.) This is a softball/baseball field in the spring and fall, but is sometimes used for soccer in the fall. There is also a tennis court. In 2006, the softball field was reversed (center field and infield) and a retaining wall was built behind the new backstop. There is irrigation at this field, fed by a point well. The water has a high iron count, which has 'tinted' the color of the backstop. The swales and the fence line around the tennis court were cleaned in 2006, and have been a part of the yearly maintenance since. The tennis court is in average condition. Parking is insufficient.

Griffin Park, Range Road



Windham town web page

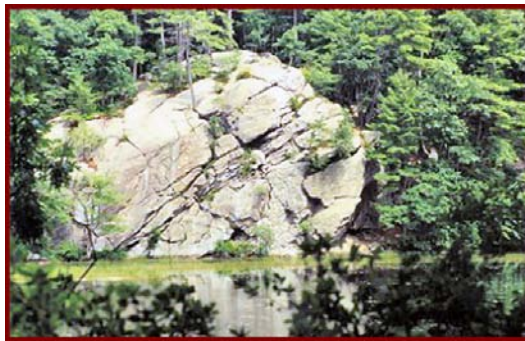
This is a multi-use recreation facility in excellent condition. There is a walking path, skate park, 6 tennis courts, 4 basketball courts, tot lot, 3 baseball fields with irrigation, 1 passive recreation field with irrigation (temporarily used for t-ball and soccer in the spring and soccer in the fall), 2 lacrosse/soccer fields with irrigation, picnic area, and a multi-use building. There are parking lot and walkway lights as well as one baseball field with lights. It is the most heavily used recreation facility in Windham. The Windham Baseball and Softball League use the baseball fields from spring through fall, and the Windham Soccer Association uses the soccer fields in the spring and fall. Windham Lacrosse uses 1 field in the spring. In 2007, the brush along the stone wall by Range Rd was cleared out, as well as the bittersweet on the trees. There is a great deal of on-going maintenance at the facility such as replacing surfacing sheets on the skate park, maintaining the swales, stone walls, fields, etc. A large section of the tot lot playground surface was replaced in 2010-2011 due to drainage issues.

The park, despite being in great condition, does have a few problems: the parking is not sufficient; the irrigation is dependent upon the pump in the pond; there are geese in and around the pond; and the posted rules at the skate park are not always followed. Funds were appropriated in 2011 to add additional parking spaces to the existing parking area, which will hopefully help the parking issues.

Conservation Land

Windham first established a Conservation Commission in 1968. Conservation lands have been acquired by gifts and donations, land transfers, and out-right purchases. Windham currently has approximately 530 acres of land in conservation, or approximately 2 percent of the land area in town. Trails described in the following conservation areas are maintained by the Conservation Commission and through Eagle Scout projects. For more information about the conservation land areas described below, please see the publication “Walking in Windham: a Guide to Windham’s Open Space” prepared by the Windham Conservation Commission. The guide includes detailed descriptions of the natural areas and trails as well as maps for each area. The following sections, many of which are extracts from Walking in Windham, describe conservation land that is available for public recreation, including hiking, wildlife watching, canoeing, and bicycling.

Deer Leap Natural Area



Windham staff photo

Deer Leap is a 54-acre natural area purchased by Windham in October 1989 with assistance through the state’s Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) Program. The Deer Leap name is derived from the natural rock outcropping (cliffs) rising some 60 feet above Moeckel’s Pond (previously called Simpson Pond) in the southeast part of town. Deer Leap, managed by the Windham Conservation Commission, can be visited by the public by taking Marblehead Road, south off of Range Road, then a right turn onto Woodbury Road (a gravel road). The Deer Leap parking lot is on the left side after a short distance.

Deer Leap Trail, used for hiking, extends from the parking lot to the Deer Leap Cliffs. Porcupine Ledge Trail leads off Deer Leap Trail. Many old stone walls remaining from historical pastures and farms can be seen along the trails in this natural area. The trail system provides easy walking for all ages. There is an abundance of wildlife native to this area, which is posted no hunting. Hikers may spot deer, foxes, raccoons, rabbits, porcupines, and moose. Native birds are also plentiful, including songbirds, owls, woodpeckers, hawks, and cranes and herons. Native plants and flowers can also be observed, such as mountain laurel, lady’s slippers, mayflowers, and pond lilies. There is a canoe access to Rock Pond in the Deer Leap Natural Area.

Foster's Pond Natural Area



Windham staff photo

The Foster's Pond Natural Area was acquired for conservation purposes in 1985, and enlarged in 1996 by the acquisition of approximately 19 and a half acres through a land exchange with an abutter. This parcel, now totaling approximately 190 acres, is located in the northwest corner or town off of Nashua Road, abutting the Nashua Road Recreation Complex and a former railroad bed, a part of the Rockingham Recreational Trail maintained by the NH Department of Transportation. Foster's Pond Natural Area contains two ponds that are connected by Mill Brook, which drains to Beaver Brook.

The Conservation Commission has developed an extensive trail system for the public's use, which originates at the parking area at Nashua Road. The trails are for pedestrian use and provide access around Foster's Pond and through the natural area. Foster's Pond Natural Area is being maintained as a town natural resource providing wildlife habitat, ground water protection, and passive recreational opportunities. Hunting and motorized vehicles are prohibited. Plenty of parking is available in the unpaved parking lot off of Nashua Road, next to the recreation complex.

Gage Conservation Lands

The Gage Conservation Lands, which were a gift from the Gage Family, are for Conservation and Recreational purposes. They are also known as the Central Town Lands, which were designated as conservation land in 1979 by the townspeople at Windham Town Meeting. Scotch-Irish settlers, who used the land for sheep farming, first settled these 135 acres in the 1600s. At that time, the land was kept as meadows for sheep grazing. Some unique stone structures built by these farmers remain standing today, including a 17th century cellar hole from a one-story farmhouse and high-walled sheep pens on the hilltop. These features can be seen when walking the Gage Lands. Eventually, the sheep fields reverted back to a forested area following the westward movement by New England farmers or the Industrial Revolution, which brought local farmers to the cities and the mills. The Hurricane of 1938 destroyed many trees in New England; the remains of several large, broken trees can still be seen on the hilltop in the Gage Lands.

A team of University of New Hampshire students designed the trail system for the Gage Lands in 1997. The trail was placed near stone walls for aesthetic qualities and away from vernal pools to minimize disturbance. The trails pass near wetlands and provide an open area to view birds as well as spectacular views in the autumn.

Gage Lands can be accessed by walking or parking along Bear Hill Road or London Bridge Road.

Bayberry Conservation Land

The 17-acre Bayberry Conservation Area was transferred to the stewardship of the Conservation Commission by vote of the 1998 Town Meeting. The designation of this property for conservation by the town was an important first step in protecting the abutting, 1,000-plus acres of undeveloped Southeast Lands, which were identified by Windham's Master Plan in 1985 as an area to be preserved by conservation.

Bayberry Conservation Area and the adjacent Southeast Lands provide a contiguous wildlife habitat corridor where moose and deer are frequently spotted. Songbirds and owls can be heard while walking in the woods here. A picturesque beaver pond and heron rookery can be seen to the southeast from the Bayberry Trail on adjacent private land. Unique native plants and flowers, such as columbines, mountain laurel, jack-in-the-pulpit, lady slippers, ferns, as well as rare native Dogwood trees are also found along the trails. These easy to moderate trails are ideal for walking, birdwatching, and educational nature hikes, for outdoor enthusiasts of all ages to enjoy.

Access to the Bayberry Conservation Area is by the Bayberry Trail, which starts at the Bayberry Road cul-de-sac and connects with trails through privately owned land. Hikers should seek permission from private landowners before crossing private land. Parking is available on the road at the cul-de-sac.

Andrew Town Forest

Mrs. Dolly Andrew, a long-time Windham resident, donated The Andrew Town Forest to Windham in 1997. This 16.5-acre parcel is located in West Windham at the junction of Mammoth Road and NH Route 111. This pristine forested woodland is adjacent to Beaver Brook, which flows along the parcel's north and west boundaries.

The Andrew Town Forest contains a mixture of pines, hemlock, and hardwoods providing excellent habitat for wildlife. Per Mrs. Andrew's request, this land is to manage by the Conservation Commission as a forest and wildlife refuge. The Conservation Commission does not maintain trails on this land, but visitors are welcome.

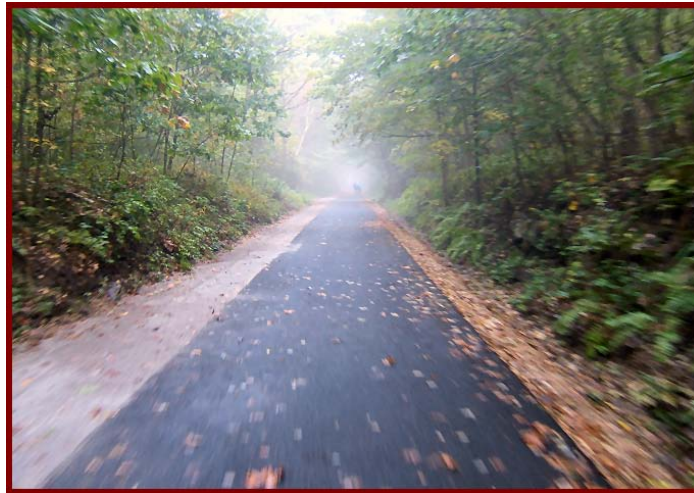
William V. Verrette Conservation Land—Canobie Lake Canoe Launch

The William V. Verette Conservation Land, also known as Verrette's Landing, is an area made up of two small parcels that can be used by Windham residents for canoe access to Canobie Lake. In the summer of 1996 Mr. Cassidy approached the commission to discuss his donation of two unbuildable lots on Canobie Lake at West Shore Road. His only request was that the land be donated in the name of William V. Verette, his father-in-law. The commission dedicated this land as the William v. Verette Conservation Land on April 20, 1997. Parking is available on West Shore Road.

Windham Town Forest

The Windham Town Forest, situated in the Northeast corner of Windham is approximately 99 Acres in size. Since the purchase of the Cyr property, 84 acres in total, the Town Forest can now be accessed directly from Rockingham Road, Route 28 and from Goodhue Rd. Prior to said purchase, access was very limited. There is a series of trail systems which lead to the Town Forest. Access at the end of Gordon Mountain Road offers minimal parking. The Trails Committee will look into the possibility of plotting trails on the combined acreage. The Scouts are also considering the property for certain uses compatible with the intentions of Conservation and the Town Forest.

RAIL TRAIL



From Windham town website

Windham Rail Trail

The Windham Rail Trail is the first major section of the planned 26 mile development of the Salem to Concord Granite State Rail Trail. Completed in 2009 this 4.1 mile trail runs through a diverse natural area, running alongside a farm pasture, apple orchard, ponds, wetlands, and woods. The trail boasts a substantial granite archway serving as a bridge for the former B & M rail corridor and also passes several stonewalls and a cellar hole from a sawmill dating from the 1800s.

Managed by the Town of Windham, along with the Windham Rail Trail Alliance (WRTA), the rail corridor is owned by the State of NH. This trail provides diverse passive recreational opportunities, an alternate mode of transportation for some and provides increased commerce to communities along the trail.

Historically the rail bed was part of the Manchester Lawrence Branch, constructed in 1847 to 1849. The first train ran the entire length of the branch in November of 1849. The last train to travel this railway section ran in the early 1970s, and was abandoned shortly thereafter. Rails were removed for salvage in the early 1980s.

The Windham Rail Trail has caught on as a popular local and regional attraction. This was confirmed in a book written by a New Hampshire rail trail expert, Dr. Charles Martin in his book, “New Hampshire Rail Trails,” as the Windham Rail Trail received both 5 stars for “Scenery and Condition”- only 2 of 41 rail trails rated with that high a designation! The trail is also a proud beneficiary of 5 Eagle Scout projects.

In 2010, as part of the three town Southern New Hampshire Rail Trail Alliance, the WRTA received notification that it ranked sufficiently to receive a grant through the Transportation Enhancements (TE) program. For Windham, the \$200K share will fund paving of and complete the final .6 miles of trail.

Windham Depot Restoration

2010 saw a tremendous transformation of the Historic Windham Depot from its inception in 1849 as the center of commerce in Windham, to its abandonment in the 70's, concluding with a major restoration project.

The first train on the M&L operated on November 13, 1849. Windham's second line, the Nashua & Rochester, was chartered in 1871. Construction began in 1873, crossing the northwest part of Windham. The first train came through Windham in 1874. In the early 1900's the original Depot station was moved about 200 feet east on Depot (near where it currently stands) with the existing Depot structure built for \$2,200. With the intersection of the Nashua and Rochester Railroad, a unique "union" depot was now in operation with two sets of signals, one higher than the other both penetrating a corner portion of roof. Other buildings in the Depot included the town's first post office, a general and grain store, and sawmill. The M&L leased the line to the Boston and Maine in 1887 until 1919 when it was eventually merged with the B&M. The Bar Harbor Express passing through was a thrill for the neighbors to watch during the summers of 1902 – 11, as well as a campaign stop by Teddy Roosevelt.

Service into Windham declined in the 1920s and 30s. The Nashua & Rochester ended service in 1934, and in 1935, with reduced service, the station was closed. Minimal service continued into Windham on the Manchester & Lawrence line. The State of NH became the owner of the Windham Depot complex in October 1941, with NHDOT using Windham Depot complex as a maintenance facility for Division 5 for about the next 25 years. The last passenger train was operated on July 10, 1953, with freight pass through occurring until the early 1970's.

Through a lease from the State, the Town of Windham made use of the land and buildings, for performing maintenance vehicle repair as well as stockpiling their winter salt and sand inventory.

In 2004, with the anticipated development of the Windham Rail Trail, and Town voting to designate the Windham Depot as a historic site, the Windham Depot Advisory Committee was chartered by the Selectmen to oversee the future improvement of the location.

After being awarded a Transportation Enhancement Grant, the committee with good fortune, was contacted by the owner of a fully restored B&M caboose that was located in Lawrence and offered the C16 to the Town at a reduced offer. The C16 was in the same series of 25 units built in 1932 at the B&M "Concord Shops." Moving quickly the Committee started the process in May 2007 by installing 49 ft of rail at the display site at the Depot and Frost Rd Triangle, strategically located in front of the Stickney Store site, where the foundation remains intact. With site preparation complete, a team of 7 installed the tracks under the watchful eye of experienced railroad maintenance foreman. Within 5 hours, the team had the tracks in place ready for the caboose.

Brandon Wood, owner of Woody's Towing successfully orchestrated the move from Lawrence to Windham Depot. With the loading completed, the caravan of caboose, caboose trucks, and moving team proceeded to Route 93. Arriving at Exit 3, the team was escorted by Windham police to the Depot. Within a few days, the crew reversed the loading process and successfully placed the C16 on the tracks to its new home.

Since then members of the Committee and several volunteers spent roughly 500 hours of effort towards the caboose. The majority of time included applying a new coat of paint to the sides and roof, replacing several windows, installing original window grates, and installing an authentic switch. Other major work was the re-installation of an original working wood stove, and the unique opportunity to re-install a commode from one of the original series.

The availability of the T/E grant funding in 2009 lead to the WDAC hiring an engineer to draw plans and develop the construction bid package. The contract was awarded in early 2010 with the work scheduled to start in April with a completion date of June. The scope of work completed included improving the structural integrity and new roofing to both buildings. The Depot building received new paint, perimeter drainage as well as wooden platforms on two sides. The Freight building received a new roof and new siding. The parking lot was re-developed providing new pavement, guardrail, shrubbery plantings and direct access to the trail. Due to funding availability, this grant, did not include interior work.

In the fall of 2010 and spring 2011 additional rail was added along Depot Rd and to the building side of the parking lot. The rebuilding of the Freight Building platform has also began and is expected to be completed by the end of summer 2011. Other anticipated projects include restoration of an original B&M freight wagon that was donated to the Committee and the installation of a “Wig Wag” signal.

The coordination and timing of the Windham Rail Trail and Depot Buildings renovation project is unprecedented given that this was done in a span of 7 years. The increased popularity and use by those from Windham and surrounding communities has exceeded expectations.

Regional Facilities

There are several regional and local recreational facilities in Windham, which offer golf, ice-skating, bowling, and other recreation. The following is a list of these facilities by category:

Golf/Driving Ranges

- Hoodcroft Golf Course, Derry, NH—9-hole course
- Windham Country Club, Windham, NH—18-hole course
- Campbell Highlands Golf Course, Salem, NH—18-hole course
- Applewood Golf Course and Driving Range, Windham, NH – 9 hole course

Ice Rinks

- Cyclones Arena, Hudson NH
- Ice Center, Salem, NH

Bowling Alleys

- Park Place Lanes, Windham, NH

Indoor Sports

- Phanzone, Hampstead, NH
- Sportszone, Derry, NH

Ski Mountains

- MacIntyre, Manchester NH
- Pat’s Peak, Henniker, NH

Program Enrollment and Field Usage

The following tables show program enrollment for sports programs and four major Recreation Programs in Windham since 2005. Program enrollment data is used to develop needs assessments for future facilities and programs, plan future recreation budgets, and as an input into the town budget planning process. There is also a matrix and information on what fields are in Windham, and which leagues use them.

Annual Recreation Department Programs

The table below shows how interest in programs has continued to stay popular in the years 2006-2011. This shows how Recreation is an important part in the lives of residents and how much residents enjoy programs.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Men's Summer Basketball League	32	32	40	41	52	55
Youth Summer Tennis	127	153	150	151	141	148
Swim Lessons	204	220	205	225	260	250
Daddy Daughter Dance	200	225	300	350	400	450

Sports Program Enrollment Information

The table below shows how registration in sports programs has been overall steady during the years 2005-2011. It also shows the enrollment for the additional programs added (summer/fall baseball). There is a great deal of participation in youth sports leagues in Windham and given the current and future trends in Recreation, interest and participation will continue to rise. Windham has reputable youth leagues and Recreation programs, which add to the high level of interest.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Youth Soccer (Rec & Travel) Windham Soccer Association	830	860	880	731	844	817	865
Youth Football Pelham Windham Razorbacks	-	240/99	188/78	266/88	265/91	270/84	N/A
Youth Lacrosse Windham Lacrosse Assoc.	127	197	201	200	300	270	275
Youth Basketball Windham Basketball Club	372	435	455	450	445	450	459
Men's Indoor Basketball (adult) Windham Basketball Club	-	56	56	50	44	50	60
Youth Baseball/Softball Windham Baseball/Softball League	844	862	900	875	843	811	785
Youth Baseball/Softball Summer				-	155	186	197
Youth Baseball/Softball Fall Ball	-	-	-	-	-	180	170
Cheerleading Pelham Windham Razorbacks	-	135/43	105/27	-	-	-	N/A
Flag Football	N/A	N/A	50	-	-	-	-
Football/Cheer - Windham							84/72

Notes: Football & Cheerleading first # is total; followed by # of Windham kids in the program (PW Razorbacks only)
Men's indoor basketball league was capped at 56 players through 2010.

Field Usage*

Soccer, Lacrosse, Baseball

Windham Soccer utilizes up to 8 soccer fields throughout the year:

- One (1) in the front part of Griffin Park in fall (temporary fields)
- Two (2) in the back portion of Griffin Park (1 in spring; 2 in fall)
- One (1) at Tokanel in the fall, (*when needed*)
- One (1) at Nashua Rd in the fall
- One (1) at Searles in the fall, (*when available*)
- One (1) at Middle School in the fall
- One (1) at Golden Brook in the fall

Please note that spring soccer at Griffin is shared with youth lacrosse

Windham Lacrosse utilizes 3 fields in the spring, as listed below:

- One (1) at Searles Field (*when available*)
- One (1) at Nashua Rd.
- One (1) at Griffin Park (shared with soccer during same season)

Please note that this is shared usage –soccer/lacrosse share Griffin in the spring, but in the fall, soccer has the 3 fields listed above. Searles tends to be unavailable quite frequently in the spring due to the type of functions offered (bridal showers, etc.)

Windham Baseball uses up to 9 fields throughout the year:

- Three (3) at Rogers (spring, summer, fall)
- Three (3) at Griffin Park (spring, summer, and fall)
- One (1) at Upper Center School, (spring & summer)
- One (1) at Middle School (spring)
- One (1) at Tokanel (spring and fall)

Please note that Tokanel and Upper Center are shared usage with softball.

Windham Softball uses 4 fields in the spring:

- One (1) at Lower Center School (spring, summer, fall)
- One (1) at Golden Brook (spring, summer, fall)**
- One (1) at Tokanel.(spring and summer)
- One (1) at Upper Center School (spring and summer)

Please note that Tokanel and Upper Center are shared usage with baseball

Windham T-Ball uses 3 fields in the spring:

- One (1) at Nashua Rd,
- Two (2) at the front of Griffin Park

*based on information through December 2011.

**this field will no longer be available after December 2011 due to kindergarten project.

The matrix below shows by season which sport uses which fields. Soccer, lacrosse, and baseball are the three youth leagues that use the Town fields on a regular basis. Scheduling can be challenging when there are rain cancellations as well as in the fall with the limited amount of daylight. This is based on usage information through December 2011.

MATRIX OF FIELD USAGE

	GP Front	GP Rear	GP Baseball	GP T-Ball	Rogers	Nashua Rd	Nashua T-ball	Searles	Tokanel	Upper Center	Lower Center	Middle School	Golden Brook*
SPRING													
Soccer	X	X											
Lacrosse		X				X		X					
Baseball			X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X
SUMMER													
Soccer	X	X				X		X					
Lacrosse		X				X		X					
Baseball			X		X				X	X	X		X
FALL													
Soccer	X	X				X		X	X			X	
Lacrosse													
Baseball			X		X				X		X		X

Based on the 2011 program enrollment numbers and the field usage information on the two prior pages 14-15, there are 8 fall soccer fields, with an average of 108 users per field; 2.5 spring lacrosse fields, with an average of 110 users per field; and 8 baseball/4 softball fields/3 t-ball, with an average of 76 users per field.

*Golden Brook softball field will not longer be available as of 12/11 once kindergarten project begins.

The tables below show the percentage of participants in sports programs based on actual enrollment in **Grades 1-8** at the Windham School District (WSD). The tables show one way of looking at how many students are in youth sports compared to how many are enrolled in the district. It is important to be reminded that there are many other activities that students are involved in, such as clubs, school sports, Scouts, etc. The percentage of students enrolled in recreational sports programs is substantial. In 2011, Windham began their own youth football and cheer program, the Windham Wolverines, with high participation levels expected.

Actual Enrollment	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Grades 1-8 WSD	1,564	1,565	1,594	1,687	1,725	1,741

SPORT	2005	% of G1-8	2006	% of G1-8	2007	% of G1-8
Soccer	830	53.1%	860	55.0%	880	53.8%
Football			240/99	15.3%	188/78	11.5%
Lacrosse	127	8.1%	197	12.6%	201	12.3%
Basketball	372	23.8%	435	27.8%	455	27.8%
Baseball / Softball	844	54.0%	862	55.1%	900	55.0%
Cheerleading			135/43	8.6%	105/27	6.4%
Flag Football					50	3.1%

SPORT	2008	% of G1-8	2009	% of G1-8	2010	% of G1-8
Soccer	731	40.9%	844	45.5%	817	43.2%
Football	266	14.9%	265	14.3%	270	14.3%
Lacrosse	200	11.2%	300	16.2%	270	14.3%
Basketball	450	25.2%	445	24.0%	516	27.3%
Baseball / Softball	875	48.9%	843	45.4%	865	45.8%
Cheerleading	NA		NA		NA	
Flag Football	NA		NA		NA	

School Field Information

With the completion of Windham High School in the fall of 2009, leagues and organizations could have the option of using the high school facilities when the school is not using them, as is done now on a limited basis with the three existing schools. However, the availability of the high school fields is very limited. The High School Tennis Team currently utilizes the Town's tennis courts at Griffin Park for their boys and girls tennis teams. The School District has the opportunity to use Field C at Griffin Park for baseball, as the Middle School does right now if needed. Curriculum and program needs for the High School sports are determined independently of the Recreation Department and are not within the scope of this Chapter, except for the above uses. The Recreation Department and the School District will continue to communicate and coordinate where possible to meet the needs of Windham citizens. *Note: there is an appendix at the end of this document with school field information. (WHS Athletic Review.)*

The tables on the following two pages (17 and 18) show the facilities and fields, the existing features of each field or facility, the current condition of these facilities and fields, and recommended improvements and maintenance for each facility and field.

Facility	Features	Conditions/Comments	Suggested Improvements
Golden Brook School	Soccer field, playground. No lighting. 100 parking spaces.	Average Had baseball field until the end of 2011 when the kindergarten project began.	Routine maintenance.
Center School	1 baseball/soccer field, 1 softball field, basketball court, gymnasium, playground. No lighting. 100 parking spaces.	Average.	Routine maintenance. Softball field will no longer be available in 2012 due to kindergarten project.
Middle School	Baseball/soccer field, gymnasium, nature trail. No lighting. 50 parking spaces.	Average—shortfall is the overlapping of baseball and soccer fields	Routine maintenance.
Wonderland Playground	Wooden play structure with swings for all ages and abilities. No lighting. 30 parking spaces.	Fair to average.	Yearly maintenance so that facility doesn't deteriorate. Monthly/seasonal landscape maintenance; maintain Estes Rd. entrance.
Rogers Field	3 playing fields (2 baseball/1 skinned softball), aluminum bleachers, No lighting.	Average fields. Parking is insufficient.	Maintain 3 fields annually. More parking needed by fields. Suggest that users park at Wonderland Playground.
Nashua Rd Herbert Field Complex	T-ball field, lacrosse/soccer field, 2 tennis courts, basketball court, aluminum bleachers. No lighting. 50 parking spaces.	T-Ball Field –Average Lacrosse/Soccer Field – Above Average. (some drainage problems with field.) Parking is insufficient.	Maintain t-ball field each spring. Maintain fence line around tennis courts and basketball court fall. Work is currently being done to address drainage. Maintain courts as needed; Look at developing upper section per CIP. Maintain/rest field after spring lacrosse and prior to fall soccer. Needs more parking.
Cobbetts Pond Beach	Beach with seasonal lifeguards, raft, dock, swim lines during the summer months. Gated boat launch. No lighting.	Average. Parking is insufficient during swim lessons and busy summer days.	Continue to monitor drainage.
Searles Field	Lacrosse field in spring, soccer in fall. No lighting. 30 parking spaces, aluminum bleachers.	Field is in average condition, parking is sufficient. Scheduling needs to be coordinated with functions at Searles Hall	Maintain brush along fence line each year. Maintain and rest the field after lacrosse in spring and prior to soccer in fall.
Tokanel Field	Softball field in spring; soccer fields overlap softball field in fall. No lighting, aluminum bleachers.	Tennis court in fair condition. Softball field in average condition. Parking is insufficient.	Maintain brush along tennis court fence each year. Maintain cleaning of swale each year. Maintain/seal court as needed each year. Maintain dirt road entrance to field, brush along driveway entrance. Restore/replace Tokanel Field sign at entrance. Explore replacing point well with irrigation well. Cut brush along outfield of softball field.

Griffin Park	Multi-use facility with walking path, skateboard park, 6 tennis courts, 4 basketball courts, tot lot, 3 baseball fields, 1 passive rec field, lacrosse/soccer fields, picnic area, and multi use building. 140 parking spaces. 1 Baseball field with lights. Walkway and parking lot lights.	Facility is in above average condition. Canadian geese problem, skatepark issues, heavy use at park has taxed the facilities	Maintain fields annually. Maintain brush along stone walls each year. Continue to educate public on littering/recycling. Approved parking lot expansion per March 2011 Town Meeting.
---------------------	--	--	--

Funding

In this section, there will be an overview of the maintenance budget of the fields, as well as possible projects to be completed. There is also an explanation of what is in the CIP.

Maintenance Budget/Information

It is estimated (based on past years budgets and recommended maintenance and improvements) that \$25,000 per year of maintenance funds would be needed in the Recreation budget to annually maintain the Town of Windham's existing facilities and fields properly once all fields are in average to above average condition. This is based on the past practices of the Windham Baseball Softball League and the Windham Soccer Association donating towards the maintenance of the fields. It is the responsibility of Windham Baseball and Windham Soccer, as well as any users, to return the fields after their season (or event) to the Town in the same or better condition that the fields were in when their season (or event) began.

The maintenance/landscaping of the Windham fields are contracted out. Bids are awarded for irrigation services, landscaping, and fertilization. Certain maintenance work is included in the contract with the Town's landscaper, but anything above and beyond normally comes out of the Recreation Budget. The amount of money needed at each facility varies each year, depending on the condition and needs of that facility.

To maximize the condition of a field, it is recommended to be able to put the fields on a 'field rotation schedule,' so some fields would be able to 'rest' while the other were being used. Due to the heavy demand on fields and the number of participants, this is not possible right now.

Below is a list of projects to be explored for the future, in no particular order. The level of priority of the projects below will depend heavily on the cost and scope of work. These factors will not be known until current assessment work such as the engineering is completed.

Nashua Rd. Irrigation It is recommended to install more sprinkler heads on the large field at Nashua Rd (soccer/lacrosse) in the areas that there are none. Estimate \$2,000.

Tokanel Field. It is recommended that the fence line along the out field of the softball field be cleared. Estimate: \$3,500.

Nashua Road. To work on the swale to improve the drainage for the current lacrosse/soccer field. Estimate: \$5,000

Tokanel well. Explore the water situation at Tokanel field (due to high iron content and point well), and it may be determined that the current well should be replaced with a more suitable alternative. Estimate: \$5,000

Griffin Park Field C. Research the possibility of having Field C at Griffin Park converted into a Softball Field for youth and adult users (adult softball league), as long as the current Field C users (primarily Babe Ruth) are able to utilize the High School baseball field. Scheduling would be worked out cooperatively with the School based on field availability. There is a great deal of interest for a men's softball league and an adult co-ed softball league in Windham. Estimate: \$3,500

Gage Lands. This land is currently under Conservation Commission and Recreation Committee. Explore any possibilities for future facilities here.

Rogers Field Explore options on how to make more parking spaces. This must be a collaborative effort with the Cemetery Trustees and WBSL.

Windham Town Beach Explore additional parking options. Beach tends to get to parking capacity during the summer months. Also explore any possibility of installing a septic system to be able to have bathrooms and running water.

Explore gymnasium space for the Windham Basketball Club The youth basketball program is extremely short on gym space for their program. The second graders cannot play at Golden Brook due to the height of the basketball hoops. A solution would be to install basketball hoops that can be lowered for usage. This is an indoor winter program that has grown considerably and it is clear that they need more gym space and availability. The only gym space where the hoops can be lowered is Middle School.

Lights at Griffin Park Explore the possibilities for lights for Griffin Park rear fields. Estimate: \$75,000

Additional 2-4 fields in Windham Based on the number of participants in current programs and the increased interest in football, flag football, and lacrosse, it is strongly recommended that in the year 2012 an additional 2-4 fields are needed in order to meet the Town recreational needs. The existing fields are currently at their operational capacity and based on projected future enrollment, the additional fields will be required to meet current and future needs. The type of fields would be for multi-use, supporting activities, but not limited to, youth football, spirit, lacrosse, soccer, baseball, and practice fields. Estimate depends on many factors. See Capital Improvements Planning (CIP) on page 23.

Coordinated scheduling between the different sports programs will maximize the ability of current and future fields to meet the needs of program participants. The above- mentioned proposed fields could help with the current heavy usage on the fields that is being experienced right now. The fields would help support current programs as well as assist in the field maintenance rotation, which in the end would help preserve the fields. The additional fields could also eliminate the usage of the front part of Griffin, which is considered to be ‘temporary’ fields right now. This would help with parking and the amount of traffic at Griffin Park. The front part of Griffin could then return to its original intent of a passive recreation area.

Front Area of Griffin Park Based on the information above (‘Additional 2-4 fields in Windham’), the current ‘temporary’ fields in the front part of Griffin could possibly be moved to a new field location and this area could go back to the intended use of passive recreation.

Capital Improvements Planning

Capital Improvements Programs have listed three anticipated field improvements, the first projected is an expansion of the Nashua Road facility, the estimated cost is \$150,000. The second item, estimated at a cost of \$800,000, is a turf field. The third is the development of Spruce Pond with an estimated cost of \$250,000. The current CIP should be updated annually to reflect recent data on program enrollment and facility usage.

Trends in Recreation

This section discusses national and state trends in recreation. Such information may be useful for future program and budget planning. Accordingly, recreation planners have identified the following national trends that will be relevant at the state and local level, as reported in the 2003-2007 and the 2008-2013 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans (SCORP):

National Trends

National reports indicate that outdoor recreation is an important part of daily life for Americans. Demand for these activities is increasing, and more people are participating in a wider variety of activities today than 10 to 20 years ago. There is an increased demand in activities due to population growth, increased popularity in activities, and the desire to living a healthier lifestyle.

Below are specific considerations that are relevant today which provide guidance in planning trends for the future in New Hampshire.

- The most popular sites will experience greater and greater congestion in the future
- There will likely be more conflicts among recreationists as they vie for use of the same areas at the same times
- Access to both developed sites and dispersed areas will become an ever more important management issue
- Changes in race, age, income, culture, etc. will continue to change the type of demand for recreation opportunities; however, overall demand will continue to increase
- The number of organized groups (representing a wider variety of outdoor recreation interests) will continue to grow and will have an increasingly large voice in public land management
- Pressure is expected to be particularly heavy at already popular water sites, especially with advances in technology
- Travel and tourism will continue to grow in transportation and access to resources remains affordable and available
- America is confronted with an obesity crisis that threatens our nation's health, economy and future. It is important that physical activity is seen as a viable strategy for disease prevention and health promotion for all people.

State Trends

The University of New Hampshire surveyed NH Recreation professionals in 2007 regarding supply and demand of recreation resources. The results showed that a majority of the leaders felt that local demand exceeds supply for items such as athletic fields, public campsites, skateboard parks, bike paths.

NH State Parks has implemented the **“Leave No Child Inside”** program which addresses the nature-deficit trend. The program encourages families to get outside and visit to parks, engage in town recreational events, etc. The Windham Recreation Department has participated in this six week event through the NH Recreation and Parks Association (NHRPA.)

Other growing trends include the collaboration between community recreation and schools, along with the increased visibility of the important role that recreation plays in defining communities.

The following table demonstrates that although most recreation lands are in the Northern part of the state, significant acreage exists even in the more densely populated areas to the south. Areas with relatively smaller acreage, but greater population, nevertheless have a larger number of relatively smaller sites, as is the case in Rockingham County.

State and County Population Statistics, Land Acreage and Recreation Supply

County	2000 Population	2010 Population	Total Land Acreage	Recreation Acreage	Number of Sites
Belknap	56,325	60,088	257,726	25,775	271
Carroll	43,666	47,818	598,397	192,825	354
Cheshire	73,825	77,117	452,911	72,869	356
Coos	33,111	33,055	1,152,947	329,617	271
Grafton	81,743	89,118	1,096,324	544,337	454
Hillsborough	380,841	400,721	561,351	50,617	617
Merrimack	136,225	146,445	597,481	84,417	450
Rockingham	277,359	295,223	446,221	40,361	654
Strafford	112,233	123,143	235,093	12,492	282
Sullivan	40,458	43,742	344,219	83,889	183

Source: US Census 2000, US Census 2010, NH OEP, NH Outdoor Recreation Inventory and Department of Revenue Administration, Current Use Report 2001.

Regionally, Hillsborough and Rockingham Counties have the largest populations, and are also the areas with homes to the largest numbers of field sport areas, parks/picnic areas, and golf course according to SCORP. Other areas with greater proximity to natural resource –based recreation show higher numbers of ski areas, boating areas, and hiking areas. For more information on Rockingham County relative to other counties, please see the 2003-2007 and 2008-2013 SCORP reports, available online through the Office of Energy and Planning’s website.

State Standards for Outdoor Recreational Facilities

The most recent study of statewide recreation can be found in New Hampshire Outdoors, the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, covering the years 2008-2013.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), which developed many of the standards used in the 1994 SCORP report, indicated that there has been a general *over-reliance* on published standards to define local needs. NRPA (covering the years 2003-2007) and the New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning (NH OEP) now recommend that communities *develop their own local assessments, and not rely on adherence to desired averages that vary with demand from place to place, or which may be prohibitively expensive for some localities*. The establishment of this level of service standard gives each community the right to determine on their own the acceptable amount of parks, fields, etc. For these reasons, standards must be either adjusted based on observations of the local pattern of facility utilization and demand, or the Town should instead develop its own standards based on local level surveys and historical patterns of field and facility use and needs.

Input from the Community Visioning Workshop

Citizen input helps the master plan committee prioritize community goals and determine a vision for the community's future. The following passages record citizen input in response to several questions from a **2005 Master Plan Visioning Workshop** concerning recreation in the Town of Windham.

What do you like about Windham? What should be preserved? Most people who responded said that what they like most are the sports activities and recreation suitable for both kids and adults. Griffin Park and recreational fields were also responses with high frequency, as were local golf courses and the recreation program generally.

What don't you like about Windham? What should change? Responses to this question included the current condition of Rockingham Trail (not good for bikes), not enough recreation areas, the need for a better management plan, and a need for better school/recreation areas coordination.

Suggestions for improvements or changes included the Town playground, which was described as a hazard to get to, with equipment in bad shape, and the presence of all terrain vehicles.

Recreation Survey

The Recreation Department completed a community recreation survey which was publicized through several press releases and available at Town Offices. Survey results are based on a sample size of 50 completed surveys received in March 2006. The following discussion describes the survey questions and the responses received to each question.

1. ***What recreational activities and/or programs does your household participate in?*** Responses ranged from baseball to yoga, covering 25 different activities.
2. ***What types of programs would you like to see offered by Windham Recreation?*** The following programs were requested: senior trips, dance, pilates, yoga, youth activities, nutrition/health, skateboarding, tennis, enrichment, summer camp, par 1, and botanical garden. (Note: A number of these programs were already being offered by the recreation department.)
3. ***How important is recreation (passive and active) to you and your family?*** 38 responded very important, 7 responded somewhat important, 1 responded not very important and 4 responded no opinion.
4. ***Do you feel that Windham has enough fields for sports? If not, what types of sports fields are we in need of?*** 31 responded there were enough fields, 8 responded there were not enough fields, and 11 had no opinion. Of those that thought more fields were needed, 2 responded that more softball fields were needed, 1 responded more baseball, 4 responded more soccer, and 1 responded more lacrosse fields were needed.
5. ***Would you be in favor of locating a playing field in a neighborhood/subdivision if it was built with sufficient parking?*** 21 respondents said that they would be in favor, 21 said they would not, and 9 had no opinion.
6. Question 6 was a multi-part question which asked: ***“Thinking about the current facilities in Windham, please indicate your overall level of satisfaction with each facility with 1 being satisfied, 2 being neutral, 3 being dissatisfied, and 4 being not/applicable do not use the field or facility.”*** The following facilities were included: Griffin Park, Tokanel, Rogers, Nashua Road, and the Town Beach.

The following tables illustrate these results:

GRIFFIN PK	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Not applicable/ don't use
Soccer fields	20	4	3	23
Tennis courts	20	4	2	15
Skate park	13	3	3	21
Multi-use bldg	11	9	3	17
Playground	23	4	3	20
Basketball	18	3	1	28
Baseball fields	13	4	3	30
Rest rooms	7	6	12	25

TOKANEL	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Not applicable/don't use
Tennis	3	3	7	37
Soccer	4	3	7	36
Softball	4	0	7	39

ROGERS	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Not applicable/don't use
Baseball	7	6	5	32
Wonderland PG	9	8	5	28

NASHUA RD	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Not applicable/don't use
Tennis	7	6	2	35
Soccer/lacrosse	8	5	3	34
Basketball	4	7	3	36
T-ball	7	7	2	34

BEACH	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Not applicable/don't use
	15	14	4	17

Future Needs and Recreation Planning

After reviewing the information on existing fields, the state recommendations for recreational facilities, past master plan work, and input from the community, the following list of priorities was developed, based on historical patterns of use and projected local future needs:

- Improve all fields and facilities to a condition of average or above
- Continue to work with the School District on possible use of fields.
- Improve parking where necessary
- Institute a yearly recreation survey to provide longitudinal data to assess current and future needs for recreational facilities
- Seek state, regional, and national funding sources for improving or acquiring recreational facilities
- Recognize universal access recommendations at the State level so that all citizens will have recreational opportunities
- Develop a maintenance schedule that can become part of the budget process for seasonal and routine maintenance of fields and facilities

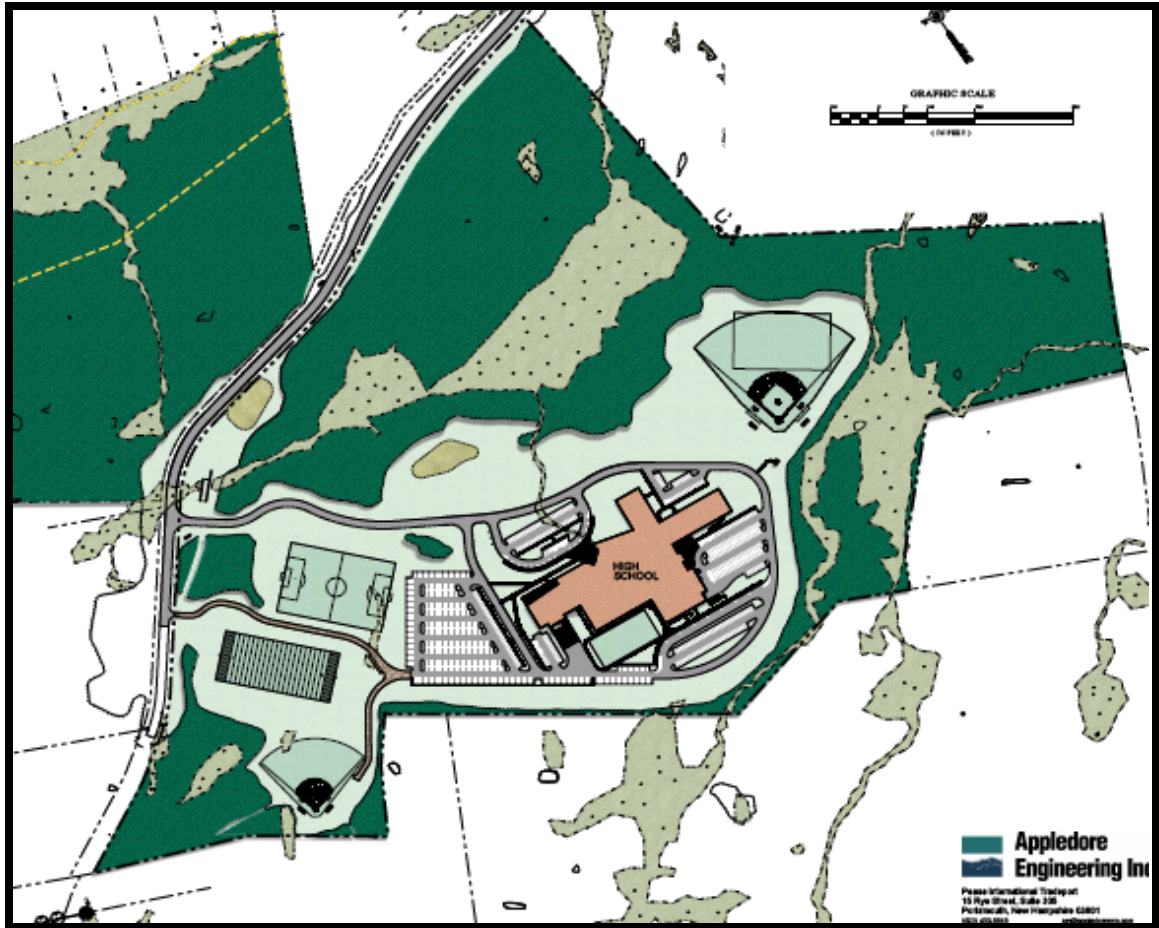
- Continue to add programs based on the needs and wants of the community
- Develop additional field spaces for the youth recreational sports leagues.
- Explore opportunities for all Windham sports leagues to unite in order to share ideas, costs associated with volunteer coaches, and field maintenance.

Summary of recommendations

It is recommended that the Town incorporate the maintenance needs as well as the longer term projects discussed in this chapter into all budget and planning discussions concerning recreation, including but not limited to town-level budget meetings, the CIP, and discussions of proposed or existing impact fees.

The SCORP document is a useful tool in defining trends in the State of New Hampshire. It is recommended to continue to use this tool which will not only help plan the future of Windham, but will also aide the Recreation Department with strategies for some of the state's recreational related challenges that may arise.

Please see the attached appendix (WHS Athletic Review) from October 2011 regarding the lack of field use available at Windham High School.



WHS Athletic Facility Review

WHS Athletic Facilities 2011-12

Practice Schedule based on current facilities.

FALL SPORTS		2011
Baseball Field	3:00-5:30pm	5:30-7:30pm*
JV Field Hockey Team	X	Share field space
Varsity Field Hockey Team	X	
Soccer Field		
JV and Varsity Girls Soccer	X	Share field space
Varsity Boys Soccer	X	
Gym		
Varsity Volleyball	X	
JV Volleyball	(Goes after Varsity)	X
JV Cheerleading	Teams will alternate and use hallways for practices	X
Varsity Cheerleading		X
Softball Field		
JV Boys Soccer	X	
Boys & Girls Golf	Off Site	

[illegible]

***Following daylight savings, practice must end earlier**

****When any team has a game, all schedules get changed as all teams practice and play on same fields**

Fall Sports Concerns:

1. Only one soccer field forces back to back games when JV and Varsity teams are playing, more difficult as daylight savings begin. This is even more of a concern as the trend is to start games later for reduced out of classroom time. This moves JV and reserve teams to various fields for practice and with one field short the sub-varsity teams may be without a field to use. If there is a sub-varsity game then there is a shortage of fields for both varsity practices. Currently the JV soccer and field hockey games are shortened due to daylight, so we are using Griffin Park for JV Boys Soccer games so they can be played in full by starting them at 4:00pm. We do bus them over to there at approximately \$105.00 per trip.
2. Limited field space will require teams to practice later; will need to address lighting concerns. Either rental of portable light systems or permanent game field lights.
3. Limited fields will result in over-usage on most of the fields with very little or no down time between the conclusions of fall sports into the spring sports. Replacement of sod will most likely be needed to maintain safe and adequate playing surfaces. During repair periods, the fields will not be able to be used and will affect WHS teams as well as any community or outside group use of facilities. This was seen this spring/summer when sod was put down on spots on the football and soccer fields, leaving the fields unusable.
4. Field Hockey using outfield of baseball field on a regular basis (two teams) will compact and tear up portions of the baseball field with no time to repair prior to start of spring season. Most recently (9/24/11) officials had concerns with the tearing up of the field around the goalie areas and threatened to cancel the game while a previous official has commented it is one of the worse fields she has worked.

Sample Practice Schedule based on current facilities.

WINTER SPORTS Teams work on rotating schedule to share early and late times.					
2011-2012					
GYM	2:30-4:00pm	4:00-5:30pm	5:30-7:00pm	7:00-8:30pm	8:30-10:00pm
Boys JV Basketball	X				
Boys Reserve Basketball	X				
Varsity Boys Basketball					
Girls JV Basketball		X		X	
Girls Reserve Basketball		X			
Girls Varsity Basketball			X		
JV and Varsity Cheerleading					
Gymnastics Skiing Coed Ice Hockey Swimming Coed	All Off Site				
JV Wrestling	In Cafeteria				
Varsity Wrestling	In Cafeteria				
JV Cheerleading					X
Varsity Cheerleading	Hallways				X
Indoor Track	Hallways				

Winter Sport Concerns:

1. As we grow in enrollment and participation in athletics, we will have to look at locations for practices of various teams and need for auxiliary space. With the large size of the main gymnasium we will double up some teams but even then will be short space. This will require various adjustments to practice and game schedules as well as use of other areas of the school facilities.

Sample Practice Schedule based on current facilities. Teams rotate for equal early and late times

Spring Sports 2012		
Baseball Field	3:00-5:30pm	5:30-7:30pm
JV Baseball	X	
Varsity Baseball	X	
Softball Field		
JV Softball	X	
Varsity Softball	X	
Lacrosse/Soccer Field		
JV Boys Lacrosse	X	
Varsity Boys Lacrosse	X	
JV Girls Lacrosse		X
Varsity Girls Lacrosse		X
Outdoor Track & Field	Parking Lot	Parking Lot
Tennis Girls/Boys	Griffin Park	Griffin Park
*Lacrosse teams will also use football field to alleviate space issues.		

Spring Sport Concerns:

1. Lack of Track facility will force teams to practice on parking lot, difficult to simulate relay handoffs and all jumping events will be compromised. No home meets for track program. Practices will have to work around traffic patterns around school campus to ensure safety of team during practice.
2. There is a concern with existing fields that the five soccer teams will tear up the field in the fall, prior to the lacrosse season with little down time to repair. Using it for both practices and games of five soccer and four lacrosse teams will contribute to the grass needing annual repair and replacement.

Summary of Concerns

We currently have four fields. With those fields, all are scheduled to be used for both practice and games. With the current use of the fields, we do not have room for any further growth and end up short space on days that games are using the fields, leaving teams without practice space. We try to be accommodating as possible with community programs in baseball, softball, football and lacrosse, however we are limited on our own teams and it makes it difficult to give additional space out. Ideally we are short two to three fields to make adequate space for practices and games for a school our size.

Recommendations

1. We are short several fields for adequate usage for our own teams at the high school. One way to alleviate this is to renovate an existing field with Fieldturf and create one field to be used for games for all teams, using existing fields as practice and JV fields. Doing this will allow us to focus spending (Bleachers, Lights, Scoreboards etc.) on one field rather than attempting to do the same on all four fields. Lights would extend the field use and allow for additional use by community programs in evenings and weekends.
2. Survey Gage Property land for use for Track and Field (8.2 Acres), will need engineering money set aside for this. We will need to provide a track in order to properly service the track team, allow for other teams training, physical education classes, middle school track and community members. Grass field inside track will help with practice space.

In addition to concerns regarding availability of enough field space, overuse of existing field space needs consideration.

Sport/Field	Avg. # Practice Hours Per Week	# Hours of Games Per Week	Total # Hours Used Season
BASEBALL FIELD			
Field Hockey	11.7	8.0	236.4
Baseball	12	6	216
		Total	452.4
SOCCER FIELD			
Soccer (Reserve/JV/Varsity)	19.2	4.8	240
Lacrosse (Girls and Boys JV/Varsity)	6	4	120
		Total	360
FOOTBALL FIELD			
Reserve/JV/Varsity	20	4.5	294
Lacrosse Practices	6	4	120
		Total	414

Hours used only reflect in- season use only, no tournament, out-of-season, or physical education class use. Certain sports will cause significant damage more quickly than other sports.

Field Condition	Hours per Year
Sustain good field conditions	200 hours or less under ideal conditions
Fair to good field conditions, some thinning turf and localized wear areas	400 to 600 hours under ideal conditions
Significant turf loss, field surface damage, increased potential for athlete injury	Over 800 hours under ideal conditions

Source: University of Florida IFAS Extension Athletic Field Use Capacity